My dear Tom Rome 9th July 1868

In the close of your letter you say "all our grown up children send their love" Then how many have you that are not grown up? do tell me this - I am so rejoiced at the success of your charming daughters & by this time Col Pearson & P. of the Pastors will be in London & I hope give a good report of me, for the report of me was very sad "that I was in a dying state & even one report was that I was dead, but I am glad to assure you that I am really well & in health the heat would come should be free of my nervous pains - Every day at 12 the clouds gather & down it comes "cats & dogs" so that 'tis winter instead of Summer! - The anti-papists say that it is all caused by the Pope trying to make a camp of 6 thousand troops in the ancient "Hannibal Camp" up in the mountains 12 miles off - this Holiness went out one day to perform mass, but he had to do it under an Umbrella & the rain put out the candles - the soldiers were all this time on their knees their backs forming rain conductors - Yet with all I am very comfortable & with a little warmth should be able to

paints, but this requires perfect ease

I have made a useful discovery that the Roman butchers make no use of ox tails but sell them with the skins, with great difficulty my Cook got one & made superb soup with it & also gave me part stew? so I think it will become a fashion unless the priests may find out that there is something heretical in the said ox tails.— My food is really very good, one of my favorite dishes is, "Stuffed Cucuzzis" a kind of Cucumber— the inside hollowed out & refilled with mince meat of Veal— I am glad to tell you that I am really taken great care of for there are so many dependant on me for business, that no doubt there have been hundreds of prayers put up for me

11th July To day seems fine so I'll hope for a change My large Photo of the Magdalen is not yet come to perfection but it promises well & I'll send you one to mount

I am glad you are able to get a little repose which is just what I am also doing

~~They have dealt me three Encaustic for debt~~
~~but as I cannot make~~

So good bye (as I begin to be prosy) with my love to all your dear ones

your loving brother Joe

proud to look at it - none but an artists eye & hand could do all this

Don't be put out at the way I'm attacked in some newspapers (catholic) there's a Mrs Stone here a rabid Papist, who writes against me - her party are jealous at the power I have over the Papal ministers & the fine things they do for me - but for me the two governments of Rome & Florence would tear themselves to pieces but I stand as mediator & being an Englishman both parties esteem & respect me age I abide by my decisions & advice - Thinking of Italy offered me the Ambassadorial Palace in Rome but the Papal party declared they'd burn it down rather than that I should live in it - & no doubt I should have been worried to death if I had gone to it - but I wanted to save £80 a years rent but I am splendidly off in this Polo Palace & have good air & windows over the great fountain Trevi

Have you heard that my beloved daughter Mrs Gale is so ill & weak that she cannot venture to come to me - she has 4 children & I fear will never leave her home - I have been fitting up two rooms for her & look forward with delight to her company during the winter but alas! no hope - Eleanor on this account I fear will not be able to come so I shall be "all alone" - Love to all your dear ones this scrawl is all stolen time Your loving brother Joe

The blots are caused by continued tears for me to sign